THE FOURTH DAY.

24th February 1916.

The Assembly met at 11-30 A. M. on Thursday, the 24th February 1916.

27. Suggestions for the development of commerce.

Mr. Kanji Vissenji (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) said that thefts of articles during loading and unloading in the port of Alleppey were frequent and he requested that the Port Officer might be empowered to deal with such cases. Replying to the Dewan, he said that the thefts took place in the sea between the ship and the shore.

He next said that all hindrances to the free development of trade should as far as possible be removed. The bills issued in Mysore and Hyderabad could be cashed in British India without the payment of an additional stamp duty. Similarly, those issued in British India did not require a further stamp duty in those States. In both cases, a Travancore merchant would have to pay double stamp duty, in the first case, while cashed in British India, and in the second, in Travancore. Further, the duty on a bill for Bh. Rs. 5,000 was only Bh. Rs. 4- as. 8 in British India, while for the same bill a stamp duty for S. Rs. 7,500, or Bh. Rs. 6- as. 12, was charged in Travancore. He suggested the desirability of making similar reciprocal arrangements with India, and till that was done, the bill should be taken as one for S. Rs. 5,000 and British stamp duty charged on that amount only.

The improvement of the third and fourth sections of the Commercial Canal should be attended to without delay as all the important trading houses of the town were situated on both sides of those sections. If the work could not be taken in hand at once, he suggested that the canal should at least be deepened immediately so that trade might not suffer. In connection with the improvement of those two sections of the canal, several ghats on both sides of the canal should be constructed for the use of the merchants.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member will be considered.

28. Amendment of the Tobacco Regulation and the Rules framed thereunder.

Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar, B. A. (Member, Shencottah taluk) said that the value of the total quantity of tobacco consumed in the State every year was between thirty and forty lakhs of rupees, while the revenue ranged between fifteen and sixteen lakhs. The whole quantity was imported from outside. He suggested that the cultivation of tobacco in the State would be a profitable concern. He was of opinion that the soil in certain portions of the Shencottah taluk was well fitted for the purpose. Less water was required for the cultivation of tobacco than for paddy, and there was the question of the scarcity of water for paddy cultivation in the taluk. It would also pay the cultivator more than paddy cultivation. The experiment had not yet been tried, because the Tobacco Regulation did not permit it. The cost of production would come to only Rs. 50, while the out-turn would be between Rs. 200 and Rs. 300 per acre. He therefore requested that the Director of Agriculture might be asked to investigate what lands were fit for tobacco cultivation and what kind of tobacco could be successfully grown there. A supervision staff might be necessary to see that tobacco was not smuggled outside Travancore, and the cultivator might be asked to contribute to it.

The people of the Shencottah taluk were in the habit of using confected tobacco which was sold at a very cheap rate in the adjoining British Indian District. They were not permitted to bring it into Travancore now and consequently the stuff was being every day smuggled into Shencottah. The smuggling could not be prevented by any amount of vigilance on the part of the Excise Department. He therefore requested that confected tobacco might be permitted to be imported into the taluk

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

on payment of a light duty. In that connection, the Member pointed out the undesirability of the Excise officers conducting house searches for smuggled tobacco during nights. If smuggling was suspected, the houses might be sealed and searches conducted the next morning.

Dewan's reply.—The Excise Commissioner and the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries will be asked to report on the representations made by the Member.

III.—PROTECTION.

(1) Legislation.

29. Appointment of a Jenmi Member to the Legislative Council.

Mr. Narayanan Tuppan Nambooripad (Member, Jenmi, Kottayam Division) said that all the members of the Legislative Council were formerly appointed by the Government. Since the creation of the Popular Assembly, the members for each Division were allowed to elect a non-official member to the Council and the remaining non-official members were being nominated by the Government. Neither by election nor by nomination had a Jenmi the privilege till now to enter the Council, and under the present arrangements, he could not hope that a Jenmi would ever enter the Council. If it were argued that the member elected by the Assembly members of each Division would safeguard the interests of the Jenmies in that Division, he would reply that the Jenmies had interests, distinctly separate from those of all others, as the heads of religious and charitable institutions of the State and as the proprietors of a major portion of the landed estates in the country. Their rights and interests would clash with those of others and therefore the Division member could not be said to represent the Jenmies in the Council. The interests of the Jenmies were at stake in the many Regulations that were being passed affecting land and it was therefore desirable to allow them a voice in the framing of those Regulations. The planting communities who had comparatively very little landed interests in the country, had a representative ex Further, the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation Amendment Bill would soon come before the Council and it would be an extreme misfortune to the Jenmies if they had no representative on the Council at the time. It was true that there were few Jenmies who could understand the proceedings of the Council which were conducted in English. He therefore prayed that they might be permitted to nominate, from any other community, a gentleman in whom they had confidence.

Dewan.—The Government have no objection to nominate a Jenmi Member to the Legislative Council. But the proceedings of the Council are conducted in English and it is not possible to make any change now. It has been in English for a long time. If the community can propose the name of a Jenmi, possessing at least some knowledge of English, the Government will appoint him to the Council. The appointment of one from another community to represent the Jenmies would be something like the appointment of a pleader.

The Member said that he would enquire and suggest the name of a Jenmi for membership in the Legislative Council.

Mr. Trivikramar Vasudevar (Member, Jenmi, Padmanabhapuram Division) said that English education among the Malayala Brahmins was only beginning to spread, and some of their boys had just come up to Form III. The appointment of such persons to the Council would do more harm than good. It was absolutely necessary to have a representative of the Jenmies on the Council to safeguard their interests when the new Bill came up for discussion there. It would not be safe for them to remain unrepresented in the Council until the present generation had acquired sufficient English education. He proposed that, until they were in a position to nominate one from among themselves, the Jenmi Sabha might be permitted to nominate a gentleman from any other community. The member so nominated would be entrusted with their interests in the same way as they made over their civil suits to vakils.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly